Prasar Bharati has informed that telecast of programmes by Doordarshan, as the Public Broadcaster, are aimed at promoting moral values, culture, civilisation as well as traditions of the country. DD Bharati channel of Doordarshan is dedicated to showcasing Indian art, culture and heritage.

Government has constituted two Inter-Ministerial Committees under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networkd (Regulation) Act 1995, to look into violations of the Programme and Advertising Code. On the recommendations of these Committees, appropriate action is taken against TV Channels for violations of the provisions of the Codes.

Setting up of a committee for production of Kashmir Channel

1172. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that there is a need to set up a committee to oversee the production of Kashmir Channel; and

(b) if so, by when such a committee with experts drawn from Kashmir would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that an Evaluation Committee, well versed with the language and culture of Kashmir, does the screening of proposals received under the commissioned category for Kashmir Channel.

Penal powers to PCI

1173. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government favour providing more penal powers to the Press Council of India to enforce its decisions;

(b) if so, the reasons for such strict control; and

(c) by when the Bill in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) No such decision has been taken.